accountability and optimal utilisation of resources allocated to the Ministry of Defence. The Government has also set up a Committee headed by the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) to suggest further streamlining of defence procurement proceudre to ensure the twin objective of accountability and expediency.

New police check posts in Assam

5511. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new police check posts in the State of Assam to control the law and order situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of additional budget being given to strengthen the law and order sitaution in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Arrest of NSCN General Secretary

5512. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindsutan Times dated the 28th January, 2000, regarding arrest of T.H. Muivah General Secretary of NSCN in Thailand; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India remains committed to peace talks with NSCN(I / M).

Bal Bharti student wounded by gun shot

5513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one student at the Air Force Bal Bharti School was wounded by gun shot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to avoid this kind of incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reported incident took palce on 15th March, 2000, when a student of Air Force Bal Bharti School, Lodhi Colony was hit by a stray bullet on his neck. A case was registered on the same day at Lodhi Colony Police Station and investigation has been taken up.

(c) The patrolling in the area especially during school hours has been intensified.

Border security posts of VHP

5514. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Vishva Hindu Parishad has announced to set up security out-posts along the International borders;

(b) if so, whether it is being done with the permission of the Central Government; and

(c) if not, whether any voluntary organisation can put up such border out-posts without the consent of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Only the security forces are authorised to set up border out posts in border areas wherever required.

Retaining of special status to displaced Kashmiris

†5515. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special status given to displaced kashmiris is being withdrawn;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.